# **CARLOTTA SHOULDER WIDENING**

Humboldt County, California HUM-36-PM 5.9/7.6 01-323300

# INITIAL STUDY (CEQA)



Prepared by the State of California Department of Transportation

MAY 2006





# INITIAL STUDY (CEQA)

In Humboldt County in the Community of Carlotta (Shoulder Widening Project)
Highway 36 for a 1.8-mile Section

01-HUM-036-PM 5.92/7.6 01-323300

**MAY 2006** 

Widen Shoulders of Highway 36 for a 1.8-mile section through the community of Carlotta, in Humboldt County

# **INITIAL STUDY (CEQA)**

Submitted pursuant to: Division 13 Public Resources Code

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA - Department of Transportation

Date of Approval

LENA R. ASHLEY, Chief North Region Environmental Services, North California Department of Transportation

# **Negative Declaration**

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

# **Project Description**

This project proposes to widen the paved shoulders on Route 36 between PM 5.92 and PM 7.6 within the unincorporated community of Carlotta in Humboldt County. The purpose of the project is to 1) eliminate the concerns of school officials and local residents that the existing highway is unsafe for school children, other pedestrians, and bicyclist traveling along the highway's shoulders; 2) increase sight distance at driveways; and 3) provide more room for Caltrans and utility crews to perform maintenance activities and for mail vehicles, school busses, disabled vehicles, etc. to temporarily stop out of the way of traffic. The proposed funding for this project is from the State Highway Operation Protection Program (SHOPP) as a "Non-Capacity Increasing Operational Improvement Project," in the 2008/09 Fiscal Year. The proposed project requires new right-of-way. Temporary and permanent construction easements will be acquired. The preferred alternative includes the minimal widening required to construct the project. The preferred alternative is summarized as follows:

<u>Preferred Alternative</u>: This alternative proposes to construct 1.7 miles of 5 foot shoulder on both sides of the highway, modify some roadway drainage, construct left-turn channelization at Wilder Road, re-stripe the centerline with double yellow line, construct Gateway Features at both ends of the community, and to overlay the existing pavement with open graded asphalt concrete.

A feature of this alternative is a desire to provide some *traffic calming* aspects within the design. *Traffic calming* is the combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, influence driver behavior and improve conditions for non-motorized street users. Since State Route (SR) 36 is also the *main street* for Carlotta, this project is designed to include context sensitive features intended to calm traffic. They are: 1)Widening the roadway to provide shoulders for pedestrians and bicyclists, while maintaining the existing 11 foot traffic lanes to calm traffic; 2) Gateway signage will alert motorists that they are now entering the Carlotta community, which should also provide a calming effect; and finally 3) Striping the 5 foot shoulder with a six inch solid white edge provides the preception of a barrier to the traveling motorist and again will contribute to traffic calming along this segment of SR 36.

As a consequence of this project, this alternative will include relocating fences, mailboxes, utility poles, and will replenish landscaping. The total estimated cost is \$5,640,000 including \$2,744,000 in R/W. Costs have been escalated recently, and estimated utility relocation costs are \$400,000.

#### Determination

Caltrans has prepared an Focused Initial Study, and determined from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

- The project will not have an effect on wetlands, air quality, agriculture, mineral resources, geologic and seismic hazards and energy resources.
- The project will not have a significant effect on historical resources, water quality, biological resources, vegetation, floodplains, soil erosion, noise, a Wild and Scenic River and scenic resources.
- The project is consistent with planning, land use, transportation, housing, emergency services, utilities, and other social and economic factors relevant to the area.
- An underground storage tank site located within the project limits is listed on the State's April 1998, List of Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List, also referred to as the "Cortese List". A contamination plume exists on the site and may extend under the existing highway. It is anticipated that the proposed work, however, will not contact the contamination plume moving with the groundwater at moderate depth. Therefore, the project appears free of hazardous waste issues. Mitigation measures will be implemented if contamination is discovered during construction.

CHARLES C. FIELDER

District Director, District 1

California Department of Transportation

June 6,2006

Date

# **Summary**

This project proposes to widen the paved shoulders on Route 36 between PM 5.92 and PM 7.6 within the unincorporated community of Carlotta in Humboldt County. The purpose of the project is to 1) eliminate the concerns of school officials and local residents that the existing highway is unsafe for school children, other pedestrians, and bicyclist traveling along the highway's shoulders; 2) increase sight distance at driveways; and 3) provide more room for Caltrans crews and utility crews to perform maintenance activities and for mail vehicles, school busses, disabled vehicles, etc. to temporarily stop out of the way of traffic. The proposed funding for this project is from the State Highway Operation Protection Program (SHOPP) as a "Non-Capacity Increasing Operational Improvements Project," in the 2008/09 Fiscal Year. The proposed project requires substantial new right-of-way. Temporary and permanent construction easements will be purchased. The preferred alternative includes the minimal widening required to construct the project. The preferred alternative is summarized as follows:

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A feature of this alternative is a desire to provide some *traffic calming* aspects within the design. *Traffic calming* is the combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior and improve conditions for non-motorized street users. Since State Route (SR) 36 is also the *main street* for Carlotta, this project is designed to include context sensitive features intended to calm traffic, they are: 1) Widening the roadway to provide shoulders for pedestrians and bicyclists, while maintaining the existing 11 foot traffic lanes is a method for achieving this effect; 2) Gateway signage will alert motorists that they are now entering the Carlotta community, which should also provide a calming effect; and finally 3) Striping the 5 foot shoulder with a six inch solid white edge provides the preception of a barrier to the traveling motorist and again will contribute to traffic calming along this segment of SR 36.

As a consequence of this project, this alternative will include relocating fences, mailboxes, utility poles, and will replenish landscaping. The total estimated cost is

\$5,640,000 including \$2,744,000 in R/W costs that may have escalated recently, and estimated utility relocation costs \$400,000.

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study, and determined from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

- The project will not have an effect on wetlands, air quality, agriculture, mineral resources, geologic and seismic hazards and energy resources.
- The project will not have a significant effect on historical resources, water quality, biological resources, vegetation, floodplains, soil erosion, noise, a Wild and Scenic River and scenic resources.
- The project is consistent with planning, land use, transportation, housing, emergency services, utilities, and other social and economic factors relevant to the area.

This Initial Study focuses on the hazardous waste issue. An amendment to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which became effective January 1, 1992, stipulated that no project located in the vicinity of a site included on a list (Cortese/LUFT) compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code, shall be exempt under CEQA. Information regarding the location and condition of the hazardous waste site must be disclosed to the public residing within the immediate vicinity of the affected site. This Initial Study has been prepared to comply with this requirement.

Hazardous Waste, Humboldt County – Case #12436. Judy's Market in Carlotta is listed on the April 1998 List of Hazardous Waste Sites, also referred to as the Cortese List. This list is a compilation of leaking underground storage tank sites identified by the State Water Resources Control Board: active, closed and inactive landfills identified by the Integrated Waste Management Board; and potential hazardous waste sites identified by the Department of Toxic Substances Control. Judy's Market was an active leaking underground fuel tank site (LUFT site) as defined by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) and has been since 1992. The case type describes the soil as impacted with Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE.) The site management description for this property is "Brownfield," (Abandoned property not redeveloped due to contamination and liability cost concerns.)

Work on the project is far enough away and far enough above, contaminated soil, that there should be no hazardous waste issues. This project will excavate earth adjacent to

the property to a depth of no more than approximately 5 to 6 feet. Any potential contamination of the soil or groundwater is thought to be at the bottom level of the former underground storage tanks. If contaminated soil is discovered during excavation, project work will cease until the appropriate measures are implemented to contain and dispose of the waste using proper safety and handling techniques.

#### **Permits and Coordination**

No permits required (Refer to Carlotta Shoulder Widening Natural Environmental Study Memorandum)

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#### LIST OF TECHNICAL STUDIES THAT ARE BOUND SEPARATELY

Natural Environment Study Floodplain Evaluation Report Historical Property Survey Report

• Archaeological Survey Report

# **Hazardous Waste Reports**

- Initial Site Assessment
- Preliminary Site Investigation (Geophysical Survey) and Soil and Water Analysis

Scenic Resource Evaluation/Visual Impact Assessment

#### **List of Abbreviated Terms**

AC Asphalt Concrete

ADA Americans with Disabilities Act APE Area of Potential Effects

C Celsius

Caltrans California Department of Transportation CEQA California Environmental Quality Act

dBa Decibels

DFG California Department of Fish and Game

EFH Essential Fish Habitat
ESU Evolutionary Significant Unit

F Fahrenheit

FHWA Federal Highway Administration

ft Foot/Feet

ISA Initial Site Assessment

km kilometer(s) KP Kilometer post

LUST Leaking Underground Storage Tank

m Meter(s) mi Mile(s)

NCRWQCB North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

NEPA National Environmental Policy Act

NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

OGAC Open Grade Asphalt Concrete

PM Post Mile

PUD Trinity Public Utility District
RAC Rubberized Asphalt Concrete
RCB Reinforced Concrete Box

RWQCB Regional Water Quality Control Board

SHOPP State Highway Operation and Protection Program SONCC Southern Oregon/Northern California Coasts

SR 36 State Route 36

SWMP Stormwater Management Plan

SWPPP Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

TWLTL Two Way Left Turn Lane

USACE United States Army Corps of Engineers
WCSD Weaverville Community Services District

WPCP Water Pollution Control Plan

# Chapter 1 Purpose and Need

# 1.1 Project Purpose

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing to improve safety by widening the shoulders along State Route 36 in and adjacent to the community of Carlotta, Humboldt County (Figures 1 and 2). The project proposes to construct 1.7 miles of 5 foot shoulder on both sides of the highway, modify some roadway drainage, construct left-turn channelization at Wilder Road, re-stripe the centerline with double yellow line, construct Gateway Features at both ends of the community, and to overlay the existing pavement with open graded asphalt concrete.

A feature of this alternative is a desire to provide some *traffic calming* aspects within the design. *Traffic calming* is the combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior and improve conditions for non-motorized street users. Since State Route 36 is also the *main street* for Carlotta, this project is designed to include context sensitive features intended to calm traffic, they are: 1)Widening the roadway to provide shoulders for pedestrians and bicyclists, while maintaining the existing 11 foot traffic lanes is a method for achieving this effect; 2) Gateway signage will alert motorists that they are now entering the Carlotta community, which should also provide a calming effect; and finally 3) Striping the 5 foot shoulder with a six inch solid white edge provides the preception of a barrier to the traveling motorist and again will contribute to traffic calming along this segment of SR 36.

As a consequence of this project, this alternative will include relocating fences, mailboxes, utility poles, and will replenish landscaping.

# 1.2 Project Need

Residents and school officials of Carlotta have indicated that there is a need for wider shoulders to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. The existing highway has paved shoulders that are up to 4 feet wide in some locations, but more typically, paved (or even graded) shoulders are non-existent or are much narrower than current standards. Sections of the highway east and west (outside) of the project limits generally have wider shoulders and less surrounding community development. As

the community of Carlotta is situated longitudinally along this section of highway, and no other streets parallel to the highway connect the various lanes and driveways, a pedestrian traveling through Carlotta has no other option than to travel on the highway's shoulders. Throughout the majority of the project limits, the California Department of Transportation has only prescriptive rights. Additionally, in many locations, the proximity of the traveled way to fences, shrubs, etc. result in insufficient sight distance from driveways.

# 1.3 Project Background

The project was initiated in 1992, prompted by a letter written by a concerned citizen indicating that the existing roadway provided less than desirable shoulders for pedestrians and bicyclists. Children walk along the highway to Cuddeback Elementary School, located on Wilder Road, and to a nearby market adjacent to the highway. Another letter in 1993, was submitted from the Superintendent of Cuddeback School, expressing concerns about a risk of accidents involving children walking to and from school, and involving the school bus when making stops with insufficient room available to pull safely out of the way of traffic. In August 1998, a public meeting was held in Carlotta. The public's response appeared to indicate that the proposed project was supported by most local residents. The perceived safety benefits and desirability of left-turn channelization on to Wilder Road was also identified through the testimony of participants in the public meeting. The Project Study Report was approved on October 30, 1998 and *Exceptions From Mandatory Design Standards* were approved in November 1998. The project was put on hold in 2003 due to budget constraints.

According to the 2002 California State Highway Log for District 1, the existing section of Route 36 considered in this report is a two-lane conventional highway with 10 to 12 foot lanes and 0 to 4 foot paved shoulders. The road is characterized by an alignment that is curvilinear, varying from 35 mph curves to 55 mph straight sections. Vertical alignment is relatively flat ( $+0.2\% \pm \text{grade eastbound}$ ) with an occasional, relatively minor, roll.

The Preliminary Hydraulic Recommendation identifies a total of six existing culverts, including those that convey Cuddeback and Fiedler Creeks under the highway. The unincorporated rural community of East Carlotta has developed both sides of Route 36, and one County road (Wilder Road), several private lanes, and approximately 82 private driveways access Route 36 within the project limits. Fencing, landscaping,

leach-lines, and wells abut or are very close to the existing right of way line and edge of pavement. Several houses or buildings are located less than 50 feet from the center of the highway.

# Chapter 2 Project Alternatives

# 2.1 Alternative Development Process

Alternatives were developed in conjunction with Regional and System Planning and Traffic Safety data. The following summarizes how planning and traffic data influence the alternative development process.

# 2.2 Planning

# 2.2.1 Regional and System Planning

Route 36, a Federal Aid Primary Rural Minor Arterial, is a regional east-west route and is part of the Federal Forest Highway System from PM 45.08 on into District 2. It is a two lane conventional highway functionally classified as a Minor Rural Arterial.

# 2.2.2 State Planning

The Route Concept Report (RCR) calls for Route 36 to remain a two-lane conventional highway on its present alignment, and to be maintained and rehabilitated, as necessary, at its present width. The RCR also states that operational improvements and safety projects should be considered on a limited basis, and constructed to appropriate standards.

# 2.2.3 Regional Planning

The 1998 -2000 Humboldt County Regional Transportation Plan, adopted in October 1999, includes the Route 36 shoulder-widening project as a mid-to long-range Capital Improvement Program candidate for State Highway Operation Protection Program (SHOPP) funding.

# 2.2.4 Local Planning

Government for the small, unincorporated community is at the County level. Carlotta has no local planning documents. The project will not affect the capacity or design speed of the subject section of highway and will have no impact on economic growth or the rate of development, commercial, residential, or otherwise.

### 2.2.5 Transit Operator Planning

Humboldt Transit Authority does not provide bus transit service on Route 36. The project will not have an impact on transit service demand.

#### 2.2.6 Current and Forecasted Traffic

The most recent 2003 Annual Daily Traffic (ADT) for State Route 36 in Carlotta is 3,300. The Peak Hour Volume is 470. Accident data shows 14 collisions occurring from October 1998 through September 2003. Five of the fourteen collisions were injury, and there were no fatal collisions. The type of collisions that occurred most often were vehicles that hit objects within the roadway. The primary collision factors associated with these collisions include eight due to unsafe speed, three to improper turns, two caused other than by the driver, and one due to the influence of alcohol. Environmental factors show that six accidents occurred under dark conditions while half of the collisions occurred under wet pavement conditions.

# 2.3 Project Alternatives

Final selection of an alternative will not be made until after the full evaluation of environmental impacts, full consideration of public hearing comments, and approval of the final environmental document. Eleven alternatives were identified as potential solutions to meet the purpose and need discussed earlier in this study.

#### 2.3.1 "No Build" Alternative

Under CEQA, environmental review must consider the effects of not implementing the proposed project. Existing conditions would not be changed as a result of the nobuild alternative. Although this alternative would not result in environmental impacts, it would not achieve the basic purpose and need for the proposed project, which is to provide the needed operational improvements.

# 2.3.2 "Build Alternative" (Preferred Alternative)

This alternative proposes to construct 1.7 miles of 5 foot shoulders on both sides of the highway, to improve highway drainage, to construct left-turn channelization at Wilder Road, to re-stripe the centerline with double yellow line, to construct Gateway Features at both ends of the community, and to overlay the existing pavement with open graded asphalt concrete. The majority of the proposed right of way will require

minimal acquistion on each side of the existing highway centerline. Utilities are proposed to be placed underground.

A feature of this alternative is a desire to provide some *traffic calming* aspects within the design.

Traffic calming is the combination of mainly physical measures that reduce the negative effects of motor vehicle use, alter driver behavior and improve conditions for non-motorized street users. Since State Route 36 is also the *main street* for Carlotta, this project is designed to include context sensitive features intended to calm traffic, they are: 1)Widening the roadway, except at a bridge, to provide shoulders for pedestrians and bicyclists, while maintaining the existing 11 foot traffic lanes is a method for achieving this effect; 2) Gateway signage will alert motorists that they are now entering the Carlotta community, which should also provide a calming effect; and finally 3) Striping the 5 foot shoulder with a six inch solid white edge provides the preception of a barrier to the traveling motorist and again will contribute to traffic calming along this segment of SR 36.

As a consequence of this project, this alternative will include relocating fences, mailboxes, utility poles, and will replenish landscaping.

- Roadway Construction \$2.896 million
- Right-of-way \$2.744 million
- Total estimated cost \$5.640 million

#### 2.4 Alternatives Considered and Withdrawn

#### 2.4.1 Alternative 1

Work for this proposed project alternative include constructing 1.9 miles of 5 foot shoulders with 11 foot lanes and the riparian habitat at the beginning of the project. This alternative would modify highway drainage, construct left-turn channelization at Wilder Road, overlay the road with AC, re-stripe the centerline with double yellow line, put in metal beam guard railing, and construct Gateway Features at both ends of the community. Right of way acquisition will be minimal and relocation of only those utilities affected by the widening. This would result in the acquisition of 5 to 6 parcels and resulting higher cost and impact to the community.

#### 2.4.2 Alternative 2

This alternative proposed to construct 1.7 miles of 5 foot shoulders with 11 foot lanes that would avoid the riparian habitat at the beginning of the project. Similar to Alternative 3, this alternative would also modify highway drainage, construct left-turn channelization at Wilder Road, overlay the road with AC, re-stripe the centerline with double yellow line, put in metal beam guard railing, and construct Gateway Features at both ends of the community. Right of way acquisition would be adequate to compensate for relocation of utilities and fixed objects outside the clear recovery zone (32 feet on each side of the existing centerline). This alternative would result in significant right of way acquisition and major impacts to the community.

#### 2.4.3 Alternative 3

Work for this proposed project alternative included constructing 1.9 miles of 5 foot shoulders with 11 foot lanes and the riparian habitat at the beginning of the project. This alternative would modify highway drainage, construct left-turn channelization at Wilder Raod, overlay the road with asphalt concrete (AC), re-stripe the centerline with double yellow line, put in metal beam guard railing, and construct Gateway Features at both ends of the community. This alternative was eliminated in order to avoid the riparian habitat.

# Chapter 3 Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Mitigation Measures

# 3.1 Hydrology, Water Quality, Stormwater Runoff

The project is located within the Van Duzen River watershed with elevations descending from 2,953 to 1,936 feet. Cuddeback and Fielder Creeks cross beneath the highway within the project limits. They flow southerly into the Van Duzen River which is within 1000 feet of the highway.

# 3.1.1 Impacts

Shoulder widening of the highway (except for those in the vicinity of Fielder and Cuddeback Creeks) will require that culverts be lengthened and the additional earthwork has the potential to temporarily degrade water quality. No regulatory permits are required for this project because the only drainage systems (culverts) that would be extended are culverts that convey roadside runoff from one side of the highway to the other side. None of the drainage systems or their planned extensions drain into Cuddeback or Fielder Creeks, therefore, no jurisdictional waterbodies (streams, creeks, wetlands, etc...) will be impacted by extension of these systems. Currently, four foot shoulders exist in these areas.

There is potential for post construction dust washing into the creeks after the first few rains. This is a short term and temporary impact.

# 3.1.2 Mitigation Measures

The contractor will be required to submit a Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP) or a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) as required by the State Water Resources Control Board. In addition, the contractor will be required to adhere to Caltrans' Standard Specifications pertaining to erosion control and water quality. All disturbed areas will be mulched and hydro-seeded.

# 3.2 Hazardous Waste/Materials

The primary concern relative to hazardous waste is encountering petroleum hydrocarbons, released from leaking underground storage tanks (LUST,) during construction. Underground storage tanks are used for heating oil in residential and commercial buildings and for storing gasoline and diesel fuels at service stations. In the past, many of these have been abandoned in place.

One proposed work area location is adjacent to Judy's Market at 7695 Highway 36. It is listed on the 1998 Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List. This grocery store dispensed gasoline, and until October 1992, had two underground storage tanks. Leakage from the tanks contaminated the soil, and likely the groundwater, in the immediate vicinity of those tanks. Information defining the actual extent of the leak has not yet been developed since the property owners have not responded to demands from Humboldt County for site investigations. Caltrans will pave on the Judy's Market property. The project work however, will include excavation for construction of the shoulder structural section and culvert (to a depth of 0.6m/2ft.and 1.5m/2ft. respectively). Any potential contamination of the soil is thought to be approximately at the bottom level of the former underground storage tanks.

Additionally, certain removal methods of yellow thermoplastic traffic striping, could be considered hazardous to humans, construction best management practices will be implemented to insure appropriate handling and proper disposal.

#### 3.2.1 Impacts

Because of the perceived location of petroleum hydrocarbons (at the bottom level of the former underground storage tanks) and because only minor paving will occur on Judy's Market property this project should have no issue regarding hazardous waste for petroleum hydrocarbons.

Removal of yellow thermoplastic traffic striping from the street surface using sandblasting, grinding or scraping techniques produces a hazardous condition to people and animals during exposure. If the thermoplastic striping is removed while still adhered to the asphalt, then a hazardous air-borne condition can be avoided. As long as the striping does not become friable (dust-like) it poses no hazard.

### 3.2.2 Mitigation Measures

Any groundwater encountered throughout the project area, within 200 feet of the Judy's Market property, will be tested for petroleum hydrocarbon contamination and will be collected and disposed of at an appropriate facility if found to be contaminated. If obvious signs of contamination in soils or groundwater are encountered during excavation (odors, sheens or discolored soil), work in that excavation will stop immediately. The Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health will be notified. Grading and construction within uncontaminated sections of the project would continue during environmental evaluation and cleanup process.

Additionally, Caltrans will pothole in project areas to test for contaminated soil prior to construction. This process will assess if contaminated soil and/or groundwater is present in any area to be excavated (potholing will cover all depths required for proposed construction related excavations.) By using the potholing technique, the Resident Engineer can better assess the risk of encountering contaminated material during construction.

Caltrans will access where yellow thermoplastic striping is located within the project limits. Material found within the project limits will be removed and disposed of by a licensed and certified abatement contractor prior to demolition or other activities that will disturb the materials.

#### 3.3 Noise

The project area is located in a predominantly rural residential strip along Route 36, which includes an abandoned mini market/gas station and underdeveloped land resources. The area is a community "Main Street" environment bisected by a two-lane highway. The current annual daily traffic (ADT) for State Route 36 in Carlotta is approximately 3,300. Traffic counts indicate approximately 470 vehicles are in the corridor during the peak hour. Because of the proximity between State Route 36 and the residences that line the State Route, the noise level within the community is directly related to the traffic moving through the community.

## 3.3.1 Impacts

The project will not increase the capacity of the highway and therefore will not result in an increase of the ambient noise levels due to highway traffic. Temporary increases in ambient noise levels and vibration is unavoidable during construction due to the operation of construction equipment.

#### 3.3.2 Abatement Measures

Noise produced by construction equipment shall conform with the Caltrans Standard Specifications, Section 7-1.01I. The contractor shall also comply with all local sound control and noise level rules, regulations, and ordinances. The noise level requirement shall apply to the equipment on the job or related to the job, including but not limited to trucks, transit mixers or transient equipment that may or may not be owned by the Contractor. The use of loud sound signals shall be avoided in favor of light warnings except those required by safety laws for the protection of personnel. All internal combustion engines used on the job shall be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer.

# 3.4 Threatened and Endangered Species

A list of threatened and endangered species ("species list") obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) indicates that the following bird species may be present within the Hydesville quadrangle, in which the project is located: marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, bald eagle, and Western yellow-billed cuckoo.

The species list also indicates possible presence of several listed fish species. Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of three federally listed salmonid species: Southern Oregon/Northern California Coastal (SONCC) coho salmon; California Coastal (CC) Chinook salmon; and Northern California (NC) steelhead may occur within either or both creeks. Additionally, one federal candidate species – green sturgeon - could potentially occur within either or both of the creeks. Occurrence of green sturgeon within either creek (i.e. part of the species' historic range) is highly unlikely. Recent records indicate that green sturgeon no longer spawn in this region of Northern California. They are currently found only in the Klamath River Basin and the Sacramento River.

Both Cuddeback and Fielder Creeks fall within the boundaries of designated critical habitat for SONCC coho, and within the boundaries of proposed critical habitat for both CC chinook and NC steelhead.

### 3.4.1 Impacts

According to Ken Hoffman of the USFWS, suitable habitat for neither spotted owls nor marbled murrelets exists within or near the project limits.

Project-related noise will not impact owls or murrelets as suitable habitat for both species is at least one mile away from the project area. Likewise, no suitable habitat for either bald eagles or yellow-billed cuckoos exists in or near the project site.

Since no work is proposed in either Cuddeback or Fielder Creek, project-related impacts to listed fish or designated/proposed critical habitat are not anticipated. Suitable habitat for the federally endangered tidewater goby is not present within the project limits.

A search of the CNDDB database yielded records for two additional species of concern: red tree vole and osprey. Suitable habitat for red tree voles (i.e. mature Douglas fir trees) is present in isolated patches within the project limits. However, no signs of red tree vole nests or feeding were found during field surveys. Suitable habitat for osprey is not present within the project limits.

This project will not impact sensitive species or their habitats. Additionally, there will be no impacts to jurisdictional wetlands.

#### 3.4.2 Mitigation Measures

ESA fencing at Cuddeback or Fielder Creek culvert inlet and outlet locations is necessary to eliminate any construction from occurring within the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of either creek.

# 3.5 Floodplains

The majority of this project is within Zone A4, 100-yr. Floodplain in accordance with current FEMA guidelines. This is a longitudinal encroachment in an area of the Van Duzen River that is subject to flooding due to offsite flows and bank overtopping. The community within this Floodplain has been established for almost a century, and residents are familiar with the fact that their property is subject to flooding.

### 3.5.1 Impacts

This project will not significantly increase the water surface elevations due to its' encroachment of the floodplain. The existing roadway will be raised 2.8 inches with

an AC overlay. This will increase the roadway width from 0 - 5 feet in the floodplain fringe. There are buildings existing between the roadway and the Van Duzen River that could potentially see an increase in water surface evelation (WSEL). This is not considered a significant raise in WSEL according to Caltrans District 1 Hydraulics staff.

#### 3.5.2 Mitigation Measures

The preferred alternatives widening of the existing roadway will offer the least disturbance to the community, improve the safety of the roadway by increasing site distance, adding shoulders for pedestrians and bicyclists and also improve the driveway approaches throughout the project limits. With this approach, the work on the proposed project is not significant floodplain encroachment in accordance to FEMA guidelines in Title 23, part 650 A of the code of Federal Regulations.

#### 3.6 Visual/Aesthetics

The Town of Carlotta is located in the Van Duzen River valley, which is approximately 1 mile in width. The project is adjacent to the Van Duzen River, which is federally designated as a Wild and Scenic River. Within the viewshed, the Coastal Range rises approximately 1400 - 2000 feet above the valley floor. Carlotta is located in a rural residential landscape surrounded by forests and agricultural lands. A Pacific Lumber mill is visible to the west of town. Route 36 provides east-west access for Northern California and connects the North Coast with Red Bluff in the Sacramento Valley and Susanville in Northeastern California.

Vegetation coverage in the viewshed includes redwood forests, agricultural fields, riparian grasslands and woodlands. Most of the vegetation coverage along the Route 36 corridor in the project area is residential landscaping with ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers and lawns. Many residents use landscaping and solid infill fencing for privacy screening. There are several mature street trees located adjacent to the existing highway within the project area, including two mature california bay trees. The redwood forest is the dominant vegetation coverage visible in the middleground and background of the project viewshed.

#### **3.6.1 Impacts**

Route 36 will be widened to 32 feet to provide two 11 foot lanes and two 5 foot shoulders. Caltrans will be acquiring between 5 to 35 feet of residential land to

provide for a mostly uniform right-of-way width throughout the project area. Route widening will impact existing landscape up to 5 feet from the proposed drainage swale centerline. Impacts may include removal of or alterations to existing fences, landscaping, mail boxes, driveways, and utility poles. There are several buildings located adjacent to the existing highway alignment.

Some of the older buildings such as the gas station and grocery store at PM 7.24 were constructed within 19.7 feet of the exisiting highway alignment. The proposed alignment may decrease the amount of area and functional use between buildings and the new roadway shoulders. Most houses are sited between 19.7 and 98.4 feet from the edge of the highway and widening may slightly decrease the functional area of the front yard. The highway will appear closer and wider to residences. Visibility of the roadway will increase with the removal of roadside landscaping and fencing.

A determination by the United States Department of the Interior indicates the proposed project will not have a direct and/or adverse effect on the values for which the Van Duzen River was designated.

# 3.6.2 Mitigation Measures

Route 36 is considered a Main Street for the town of Carlotta and this main street segment comprises the proposed project limits. Widening will open up the viewshed for this community. Esthetically, new paving, gateway treatments, and the left lane channelization, will enhance the main street image.

Impacts to existing vegetation within the project limits will be minimized where practical. Caltrans will work with property owners to replace fencing, landscaping and other front yard appurtenances where feasible and required. The project landscape architect will be involved in working with the community to develop the new look and ambience of the corridor.

# 3.7 Traffic - Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

Route 36, a Federal Aid Primary Rural Minor Arterial, is a regional east-west route and is part of the Federal Forest Highway System from PM 45.1 on into District 2. It is a two-lane conventional highway functionally classified as a Minor Rural Arterial. Current traffic volumes on this route are 3,300 Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) and represent a combined estimate for travel in both directions. Current peak-hour traffic is estimated to be approximately 470 vehicle trips through the

corridor. A component of the traffic moving through the corridor is related to truck movement. It is estimated that approximately 9% of the total AADT can be attributed to truck traffic.

#### 3.7.1 Impacts

Accident data for this area indicates that 14 collisions occurred between October 1998 and September 2003. Five of the fourteen collisions were injury, however, none of these were fatal.

The community of Carlotta is situated longitudinally along this section of highway. There are no other streets that parallel Route 36. Therefore Route 36 provides the connection for perpendicular streets and driveways bordering Route 36. A pedestrian or bicyclist traveling through Carlotta has no other option than to travel on Route 36 shoulders. Residents and school officials of Carlotta have indicated that there is a need for wider shoulders to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. The existing highway has paved shoulders that are up to 4 feet wide in some locations, but more typically, paved (or even graded) shoulders are non-existent.

# 3.7.2 Mitigation Measures

Construction activities will be conducted in a manner to least disrupt or restrict the travelling public. No lane closures will take place during designated holidays. During the majority of the widening operations one-way traffic control would be limited to a total distance of one mile. Advance notification of any closure will be provided to, and coordinated with appropriate local emergency service providers (i.e., the hospital, fire department, police department, and ambulance service). Flyers will be distributed to the residents of Carlotta and the local traveling public providing advance notification of construction restrictions and activities.

# 3.8 Historical Resources

The Historic Architectural Survey Report (HASR) concerns the evaluation of properties along State Route 36 in Carlotta, Humboldt County, from postmiles 5.8 to 7.6. Of the 70 properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE), 32 were formally evaluated in this report, and 38 properties in the APE were treated under the June 1, 2001 "Interim Policy for the Treatment of Buildings Constructed in 1957 or Later."

### **3.8.1** Impact

The HASR concludes that none of the properties appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, there does not appear to be the potential for a National Register-eligible historic district or historic landscape that would include any of the properties as contributing elements.

# 3.8.2 Mitigation Measures

Caltrans has evaluated the resources in accordance with Section 15064.5 (a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, using criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code, and determined that the resources are not historical for the purposes of CEQA.

# 3.9 Archaeological Resources

The archeological field survey of the project area was conducted on four separate dates between the winter of 2001 and spring of 2002. A follow-up sampling survey of the project area was conducted on February 2, 2005. The surveys conducted included all areas that would potentially have work occurring in them. This included areas that could be used for equipment staging.

# 3.9.1 **Impact**

The archaeological surveys identified no new archaeological sites. According to Douglas - 1979, 1988 and Wyman – 1998, no archaeological or cultural resources were found in the area. Native American consultation with the Wiyot Tribe and the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Reservation also yielded a response of no known archaeological sites associated with the project location.

#### 3.9.2 Mitigation Measures

If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, it is Caltrans' policy that work be halted in the area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find. An additional archaeological survey will be needed if project limits are extended beyond the present survey limits.

# Chapter 4 Cumulative Impacts

# 4.1 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts usually result from past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, combined with the potential impacts of this project.

This project will improve a segment of State Route (SR) 36 that moves vehicles through the small community of Carlotta. The intention of this project is to construct 1.7 miles of 5 foot shoulder on both sides of the highway to facilitate safer passage up and down the corridor for pedestrians and bicyclists. A left turn lane will be constructed at Wilder Road to allow for safer turns onto Wilder Road. Wilder Road is the main access road to and from the elementary school. Overlaying the asphalt, restriping the roadway, drainage adjustments and providing gateway aesthetics, do little to generate impacts that could be added to other types of development for a comprehensive evaluation.

The Route Concept Report (RCR) calls for Route 36 to remain a two-lane conventional highway on its present alignment, and to be maintained and rehabilitated, as necessary, at its present width. The RCR also states that operational improvements and safety projects should be considered on a limited basis, and constructed to appropriate standards.

This project will not affect the capacity or design speed of the subject section of highway and will have no impact on economic growth or the rate of development, commercial, residential, or otherwise.

# Chapter 5 California Environmental Quality Act Evaluation

# 5.1 CEQA Environmental Checklist

The following checklist identifies physical, biological, social, and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. The CEQA impact levels include potentially significant impact, less than significant impact with mitigation, less than significant impact, and no impact. Please refer to the following for detailed discussions regarding impacts:

# CEQA:

- Guidance: Title 14, Chapter 3, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 et seq. (http://www.ceres.ca.gov/topic/env\_law/ceqa/guidelines/)
- Statutes: Division 13, California Public Resource Code, Sections 21000-21178.1 (http://www.ceres.ca.gov/topic/env\_law/ceqa/stat/)

CEQA requires that environmental documents determine significant or potentially significant impacts. In many cases, background studies performed in connection with the project indicate no impacts. A "no impact" reflects this determination. Any needed discussion is included in the section following the checklist.

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
AESTHETICS - Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				X
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				X
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			X	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				X
AGRICULTURE RESOURCES - In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				Х
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?				X
AIR QUALITY - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				X
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?				X

		CEQ	4	
	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?				X
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?				X
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?				X
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				X
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	re			X
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				X
COMMUNITY RESOURCES - Would the project:				
a) Cause disruption of orderly planned development?				X

		impact	mitigation	impact	No impact
b)	Be inconsistent with a Coastal Zone Management Plan	?			X
c)	Affect life-styles, or neighborhood character or stability	y?			X
d)	Physically divide an established community?				X
e) tran	Affect minority, low-income, elderly, disabled, asit-dependent, or other specific interest group?				X
f) disp	Affect employment, industry, or commerce, or require placement of businesses or farms?	the			X
g)	Affect property values or the local tax base?				X
	Affect any community facilities (including medical, cational, scientific, or religious institutions, ceremonial s or sacred shrines?				X
i)	Result in alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic?				X
j)	Support large commercial or residential development?				X
k)	Affect wild or scenic rivers or natural landmarks?				X
	Result in substantial impacts associated with constructivities (e.g., noise, dust, temporary drainage, traffic detotemporary access, etc.)?			X	
CU	LTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:				
_	Cause a substantial adverse change in the nificance of a historical resource as defined in 5064.5?				X
sign	Cause a substantial adverse change in the nificance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 5064.5?				X
c) reso	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological purce or site or unique geologic feature?				X
d) out:	Disturb any human remains, including those interred side of formal cemeteries?				X
GE	OLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:				
	Expose people or structures to potential substantial erse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death olving:			X	

CEQA

Less than

Less than significant

Potentially

CEQA				
Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact	

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.		X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?		X
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?		X
iv) Landslides?		X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?		X
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?		X
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?		X
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?		X
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project:		
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?		X
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?		X
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?		X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?		X

	CEQA			
	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	s,			X
<b>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY</b> - Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			X	
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?				X
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X	
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			X	
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				X

	CEQA			
	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				X
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?			X	
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				X
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				X
LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:				
a) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X
b) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				X
MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				X
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?				X
NOISE - Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				X
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				X
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				X

	CEQA			
	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
PUBLIC SERVICES -				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?				X
Police protection?				X
Schools?				X
Parks?				X
Other public facilities?				X

	Potentially significant impact	significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
RECREATION -				
A) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				X
Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				X
TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC - Would the project:				
cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?				X
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				X
Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location hat results in substantial safety risks?				X
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or ncompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?				X
Result in inadequate parking capacity?				X
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, picycle racks)?				X
JTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the pro	oject:			
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X
D) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X

CEQA

	CEQA			
	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				X
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				X
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE -				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				X
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				X
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				X

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
SECTION 4(F) RESOURCES – Does the project:		
a) Result in the use of any publicly owned land from a park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge, as defined by section 4(f) (23 CFR 771.135)?		X
b) Affect a significant archaeological or historic site, structure, object, or building, as defined by section 4(f) (23 CFR 771.135)?		X
c) Involve "constructive use", as defined by section 4(f) (23 CFR 771.135)?		X

### Chapter 6 List of Preparers

This Initial Study (IS) was prepared by the North Region of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The following Caltrans staff participated in preparing this document:

Lena R. Ashley, Chief, North Region Environmental Services. Consultation

Thomas Balkow, Senior Environmental Planner. Consultation

Daniel Bui, Project Engineer. Authored Carlotta Project Report

Janice Calpo, Staff Architectural Historian, Contribution: Historic Architectural Survey Report

Sherry Douglas, Associate Environmental Planner (Biologist). Contribution: Natural Environmental Study Memorandum

Ed Espinoza, Associate Environmental Planner (Author)

Larry French, Associate Environmental Planner (Co-Author)

Ken Hallis, Hydraulics Engineer. Contribution: Floodplain Evaluation Report

Jon Hedlund, Caltrans Engineer. Contribution: Hazardous Waste Initial Site Assessment.

Jim Hibbert, Associate Landscape Architect, Contribution: Visual Impact Analysis

Timothy Keefe, Associate Environmental Planner (Cultural Resources). Contribution: Historic Property Survey Report, Archaeological Survey Report

Richard Mullen, Project Manager

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### Appendix A Coordination and Consultation

The following agencies and organizations were contacted during the project development process:

- Humboldt County Health Services
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- Humboldt County Public Works Department
- Cuddeback Elementary School
- California Highway Patrol
- Wiyot Tribe
- Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria
- Humboldt County Historical Society
- State Historical Preservation Office California
- National Register of Historic Places
- California Register of Historic Resources
- California Inventory of Historic Resources

### Appendix B Title VI Policy Statement

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January 14, 2005

TTY (916) 653-4086

#### TITLE VI POLICY STATEMENT

The California Department of Transportation under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes, ensures that no person in the State of California shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity it administers.

WILL KEMPTON

Director

# Appendix C Mitigation and Monitoring Commitments

The Resident Engineer shall be responsible for ensuring that all design features and mitigation measures shall be implemented throughout construction. The Resident Engineer shall also be responsible for ensuring that the contractor does not work within any stream channel. Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) fencing should be placed to exclude any work within the creek areas where culvert or bridge related work might take place. ESA fencing should be placed to exclude the contractor from entering any of the Judy's Market property or any pre-identified wetland areas (although these have been excluded from the project, it is necessary to fence off the wetlands to exclude potential staging or construction related activities associated with the project.) The following is a list of mitigation measures that shall be sent to the Construction Resident Engineer.

- 1. Standard construction practices will be used to mitigate any temporary construction impacts to lands adjacent to the project;
- 2. Controlled access to the construction site:
- 3. Fenced construction areas;
- 4. Maintained access to all businesses and private property;
- 5. Limited Right-of-Way; only what is necessary to construct the project;
- 6. The Resident Engineer will coordinate and communicate with property owners, emergency personnel and local and the traveling public during the construction of this project;
- 7. Construction activities will be conducted in a manner least disrupt or restrict the traveling public;
- 8. Dust control practices will be in place and enforced;
- 9. All hazardous materials will be handled and disposed of in accordance with local, State and Federal laws and Department specifications. Grading and construction activities will be monitored to identify any hazardous

- materials that are discovered during construction. If materials are discovered during construction, the resident engineer will halt work in the area of concern:
- 10. Construction activities affecting natural habitats or undisturbed soils will be minimized to the extent practicable. All areas left disturbed at the end of construction will be seeded and mulched to help prevent the establishment of invasive weeds;
- 11. Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing will be placed to exclude any work in any water body (e.g., Creek, tributary, etc...) Additionally, ESA fencing will be placed around any wetland area adjacent to the project to prevent the contractor from staging equipment or worker invasion in these defined areas.

#### Appendix D **Comments & Coordination**

The Draft Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) was circulated for public review and comment from April 8 to May 8, 2006. A public notice was placed in area newspapers to advertise the above referenced public information meeting, availability of the Draft IS/ND, and Caltrans' intent to adopt a Negative Declaration. The notice was published in the Humboldt County circular known as the Times Standard, the Humboldt Beacon and the Ferndale Enterprise and ran from April 17 to April 21, 2006 in the Times Standard and on April 20, 2006 in the Humboldt Beacon and the Ferndale Enterprise. The public information meeting for this project was held on April 25, 2006, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Cuddeback Elementary School in the community of Carlotta. Copies of the Draft IS/ND were available at Cuddeback Elementary School, the Carlotta Post Office, the Humboldt County Library, the Fortuna Branch of the Humboldt County Library and the Caltrans District 1 office for anyone interested in reviewing the document. Public notice of the meeting and the availability of the Draft Environmental Document were sent to residences that would be directly affected by the project. An electronic file of the Draft IS/ND was also available at the following Caltrans website: www.dot.ca.gov /dist1/d1projects/envdocs/carlotta.htm. In addition, notices were sent to any stakeholders identified with the project.

Comments that warranted a response and were received by May 15, 2006 during the public comment period are included in this Appendix. Comments received after the specified review period were responded to but were not included in the Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration.



#### MAY 1 1 2006

### Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit

STATE OF CALIFORNIA



May 9, 2006

Ed Espinoza Department of Transportation, District 2 Office of Environ. Mgmt., MS 30 1657 Riverside Drive Redding, CA 96001

Subject: Carlotta Shoulder Widening Project

SCH#: 2006042039

Dear Ed Espinoza:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Joint Document to selected state agencies for review. The review period closed on May 8, 2006, and no state agencies submitted comments by that date. This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. If you have a question about the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts

Director, State Clearinghouse

1400 TENTH STREET P.O. BOX 3044 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812-3044 TEL (916) 445-0613 PAX (916) 323-3018 www.opr.ca.gov

#### **Document Details Report** State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# Project Title Lead Agency	2006042039 Carlotta Shoulder Widening Project Caltrans #2			
Туре	JD Joint Document			
Description	The California Department of Transportation (California), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing to improve safety by widening the shoulders along State Route 36 in and adjacent to the community of Carlotta, Humboldt County. The project proposes to construct 1.7 miles of 4.9 foot shoulder on both sides of the highway, to improve some roadway drainage, to construct a left-turn channelization at Wilder Road, to re-stripe the centerline with double yellow lines, to construct Gateway Features at both ends of the community, and to overlay the existing pavement with open graded asphalt concrete. As a consequence of this project, this alternative will include relocating fences, mailboxes, utility poles, and will replentsh landscaping.			
Lead Agend	y Contact			
Name	Ed Espinoza			
Agency	Department of Transportation, District 2			
Phone	(530) 225-3302 Fax			
email				
Address	Office of Environ. Mgmt., MS 30			
City	1657 Riverside Drive Redding State CA Zip 96001			
Project Loc	ation			
County	Humboldt			
City	Fortuna			
Region	10-19-2			
Cross Streets	SR-36, Wilson Lane, Corbett Ranch Road			
Parcel No.				
Township	2N Range 1E Section 21,22 Base Fortuna			
Proximity to	):			
Highways	101			
Airports				
Rallways	abandoned rail spur			
Waterways				
Schools				
Land Use	The project passes through the small rural (primarily residential) community of Carlotta, California.			
	The project involves widening work on State Route 36.			

Start of Review 04/07/2006

**Public Utilities Commission** 

Date Received 04/07/2006

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Noise; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Wetland/Riparian; Wildlife; Cumulative Effects

Note: Blanks in data fields result from insufficient information provided by lead agency.

Reviewing Resources Agency; Department of Fish and Game, Region 1; Department of Parks and Recreation; Agencies Department of Water Resources; California Highway Patrol; Air Resources Board, Transportation

Projects; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 1; Native American Heritage Commission;

End of Review 05/08/2006

## Comments fielded by staff at the public information meeting held at Cuddeback Elementary school on April 25, 2006.

Comments taken by staff person Lezlie Kimura, Transportation Planner, District 1

Anonymous Comment #1: Three residents expressed concerns about the project limits not extending through PM 5.92 to include the roadway curve west of Wilson Lane. They thought that extending the widening project past the curve would increase safety.

Response: The current project limits at PM 5.92 avoid riparian habitat at the beginning of the project. Extending the project limits past PM 5.92 would result in additional environmental impacts and the need to acquire new right-of-way. During the alternative analysis phase of the project, alternatives were developed and considered to identify the best possible project to meet the purpose and need for Caltrans and the Community of Carlotta, while addressing the impacts (i.e., environmental, community disruption, traffic, costs, etc...)

Comments taken by staff person Rick Mayberry, Transportation Engineer, District 1

<u>Anonymous Comment #1</u>: Why can't we end the project before the fire station?

<u>Response</u>: Various project alternatives were considered that extended the project distance past the current project limits. For now, this portion of the project limits allows for the placement of *Gateway* features (i.e., welcoming sign) as traffic enters Carlotta. In the next phase of the project (PS&E), we will look into the overall limits of the project and construct or widen only what is necessary.

Anonymous Comment #2: I have a concern about 2" rise in the roadway (i.e., flooding).

Response: This comment was asked by a Carlotta resident at the public meeting and was addressed by staff persons Lucy Kostrzewa (Hydraulics Engineering Manager) and Lena Ashley (Environmental Manager). Their combined explanation was that the rise in roadway surface will not cause significant flooding nor change the direction of water flow. They went on to explain that the flooding Carlotta residents face regularly, is due to creeks that flow through the Carlotta community, overtopping after storm events. The creeks need to be cleaned out on a yearly basis, which is not happening. Jurisdiction for the creeks reside with the Army Corps of Engineers and Humboldt County.

<u>Anonymous Comment #3</u>: Why can't Caltrans flatten out the curve across Hayfield Lane (accidents happen in this curve)?

<u>Response</u>: Extending the tangent between curves would require re-alignment of the road, which would result in additional environmental and housing impacts on both sides of State Route 36 through the Carlotta Community. The intent of this project was to accomplish widening the shoulders of the roadway to provide somehat improved pedestrian/bicycle movement and safety, while minimizing impacts to the environment and socioeconomic fabric of the Carlotta community.

<u>Duane Plant (Carlotta citizen) Comment #4</u>: Offended that the name "Taijan" still appeared on his parcel (depicted on right-of-way mapping).

<u>Jan Mattson (Carlotta citizen) Comment #5</u>: Indicated the labeled owner "Lowitz" may not correctly correspond to parcel APN: 206-191-05 (depicted on right-of-way mapping).

Response: Explore labeling and correct if necessary.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA -- BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P.O. Box 496073 Redding, CA 96049-2019 PHONE (530) 225-3405 FAX (530) 225-3019 TTY (530) 225-2019



May 26, 2006

02-Environmental Management 01-HUM-36-PM 5.9/7.6 03 180 01 323300 Shoulder Widening

Ann Mares P.O. Box 271 Carlotta, CA 95528

Subject: Response to Comment

Dear Ms. Mares:

Thank you for taking the time to provide input on the proposed shoulder widening improvement project on Route 36 from post mile 5.9 to 7.6. We appreciate your participation in the project development process. In response to your written comments we provide the following:

Comment: "Our address is 6761 Highway 36 in the north side of road where our neighbors will be left with almost no yard – yet across the street there is lots of horse pasture."

Response: "The proposed project is based on preliminary engineering data and a design process that includes an analysis of environmental, traffic, hydrology, aesthetic and right of way impacts. Alternatives were developed to identify the best project to meet the purpose and need for the project while addressing the aforementioned impacts.

As the design process nears completion, Caltrans' Right of Way Office will be able to assess impacts to properties adjacent to the project and make an appraisal for any damages based on fair market value. At that point, it may be possible for Caltrans Design staff to make minor changes to avoid and/or minimize impacts to these properties. For example, it may be possible to avoid encroachment upon a well or septic system, however, the best solution might be for Caltrans to pay to have the well or septic system relocated. Caltrans will first assess and utilize viable solutions to avoid and minimize project impacts to property owners."

Thank you for your letter bringing your concerns to our attention. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the project, please contact the Environmental Coordinator, Ed Espinoza, at (530) 225-3302 or the Project Manager, Richard Mullen, at (707) 441-5877.

Sincerely,

Tom Balkow, Branch Chief R2 Office of Environmental Management

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006

TODETC OF ENTITOOSE	10L3	DAI, AFRIL	. 23, 2000
Project: Shoulder widen	ing on Highway 36 t	hrough Carle	otta
NAME: Arm Mave			
ADDRESS: (home)	CITY	STATE	ZIP
10, 13x 271	Carlotte	C.	0.22.5.R.
Representing: (Name of organiz	zation or agency)		
To and the same has been a			
I would like to make the following com			
Cur address is 6	161 Floway 3	6017	he Narh
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NOTICE:			
Information provided on this comm	ent card is considered to be	nublic informatio	on and will be
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released upon request under the te	erms of the California Public	Kecoras Act.	

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P.O. Box 496073 Redding, CA 96049-2019 PHONE (530) 225-3405 FAX (530) 225-3019 TTY (530) 225-2019



May 26, 2006

02-Environmental Management 01-HUM-36-PM 5.9/7.6 03 180 01 323300 Shoulder Widening

Christine Justesen 6533 Highway 36 Carlotta, CA 95528

Subject: Response to Comment

Dear Ms. Justesen:

Thank you for taking the time to provide input on the proposed shoulder widening improvement project on Route 36 from post mile 5.9 to 7.6. We appreciate your participation in the project development process. In response to your written comments we provide the following:

Comment: "We would like to see the proposed project shifted more towards the south side of the road. Center driveline could be shifted as to use more of the open field space instead of front yards. Also, south side of road does not contain utility lines (PG&E). We do not have much front yard as it is."

Response: "The proposed project is based on preliminary engineering data and a design process that includes an analysis of environmental, traffic, hydrology, aesthetic and right of way impacts. Alternatives were developed to identify the best project to meet the purpose and need for the project while addressing the aforementioned impacts.

As the design process nears completion, Caltrans' Right of Way Office will be able to assess impacts to properties adjacent to the project and make an appraisal for any damages based on fair market value. At that point, it may be possible for Caltrans Design staff to make minor changes to avoid and/or minimize impacts to these properties. For example, it may be possible to avoid encroachment upon a well or septic system although the best solution might be for Caltrans to pay to have the well or septic system relocated. Caltrans will first assess and utilize viable solutions to avoid and/or minimize project impacts to property owners."

Thank you for your letter bringing your concerns to our attention. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the project, please contact the Environmental Coordinator, Ed Espinoza, at (530) 225-3302 or the Project Manager, Richard Mullen, at (707) 441-5877.

Sincerely,

Tom Balkow, Branch Chief R2 Office of Environmental Management

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) **PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 20106** Project: Shoulder widening on Highway 36 through Carlotta NAME; ustesen ADDRESS: (home) CITY STATE ZIP 6533Hwy Carlotto Representing: (Name of organization or agency) I would like to make the following comments: (Comments must be postmarked by May 15, 2006) NOTICE: Information provided on this comment card is considered to be public information, and will be released upon request under the terms of the California Public Records Act.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA --- BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P.O. Box 496073 Redding, CA 96049-2019 PHONE (530) 225-3405 FAX (530) 225-3019 TTY (530) 225-2019



May 26, 2006

02-Environmental Management 01-HUM-36-PM 5.9/7.6 03 180 01 323300 Shoulder Widening

Duane A. & Diana L. Plant 7608 Highway 36 Carlotta, CA 95528

Subject: Response to Comment

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Plant:

Thank you for taking the time to provide input on the proposed shoulder widening improvement project on Route 36 from post mile 5.9 to 7.6. We appreciate your participation in the project development process. In response to your written comments we provide the following:

Comment: "My house is so close to the road, that removing my hedge and trees will make it dangerous to use the front of the house, where it now stands. Could the house be relocated further from the Highway? This would counteract the increased noise and dust caused by removing the trees and hedge. The property with the large shop would be ideal for use by one of the subcontractors working on the project."

Response: "The estimate mapping was pulled for the Carlotta shoulder-widening project and we took a look at your particular situation. It was determined that the actual traveled-way as currently planned will be staying in it's existing location in the after condition. The proposed acquisition area in front of your residence would be approximately 6' in width along with a 6' temporary construction easement.

As depicted on some of the mapping at the open house meeting, most of the proposed acquisition area will provide for additional shoulder width that will be safer for pedestrians and provide better sight distance for those entering and exiting private properties onto Highway 36. Obviously the project as currently planned would require a portion of your parcel, your hedge, and trees. An appraisal would have to be completed which would address any potential loss in value to your property that would occur due to the loss of the above items. Before considering the possibility of actually moving your residence back the appraiser would first look at the project specific impacts that the proposed acquisition would have on your residence and remaining property to determine if there is in fact a damage. During the inspection you will have the opportunity to address your concerns to the appraiser. If the appraiser determines that the loss of trees, hedge or moving of the highway closer to the residence was such that the residence suffered a loss in value as a result thereof, the appraiser would try to find a way to eliminate or mitigate any such loss in value by including a severance damage payment in the appraisal. For example the appraiser might include the cost of a replacement hedge, fence, or landscaping barrier of some sort to help mitigate in the

Duane A. & Diana L. Plant May 26, 2006 Page 2

above situation. There are many potential ways that an appraiser might deal with this situation depending on the specifics of the design.

The main point is that you would want to make sure that when you meet with the appraiser during the inspection you would want to bring up any concerns you may have."

Thank you for your letter bringing your concerns to our attention. If you have any questions or would like to discuss a right of way issue, please contact Russell Lemstrom, at (530) 225-3302. For any other aspect of the project, please call Environmental Coordinator, Ed Espinoza, at (530) 225-3305 or the Project Manager, Richard Mullen, at (707) 441-5877.

Sincerely,

Tom Balkow, Branch Chief R2 Office of Environmental Management

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006
Project: Shoulder widening on Highway 36 through Carlotta
NAME DUANE A PLANT / DIANO L PLANT
ADDRESS: (home) CITY STATE ZIP COLIF 95528
Representing: (Name of organization or agency)
I would like to make the following comments: (Comments must be postmarked by May 15, 2006)  MY House is as close to the Rood that Removed
the Francisco the House where It never stands
Could the House be relocated further from the Highway
Could by removing the hers and Horas.
for one of the sub- Contractors Working on the freger
NOTICE:
Information provided on this comment card is considered to be public information, and will be released upon request under the terms of the California Public Records Act.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P.O. Box 496073 Redding, CA 96049-2019 PHONE (530) 225-3405 FAX (530) 225-3019 TTY (530) 225-2019



May 26, 2006

02-Environmental Management 01-HUM-36-PM 5.9/7.6 03 180 01 323300 Shoulder Widening

Harry Dibble 100 Wilson Lane Carlotta, CA 95528

Subject: Response to Comment

Dear Mr. Dibble:

Thank you for taking the time to provide input on the proposed shoulder widening improvement project on Route 36 from post mile 5.9 to 7.6. We appreciate your participation in the project development process. In response to your written comments we provide the following:

Comment: "I think you should continue to widen the highway 200 to 300 yards past (west of) Wilson Lane, to join into highway that has already been partially widened. At the beginning of this project, it was looked at going all the way to the Post Office."

Response: "Various project alternatives were considered that included going all the way to the Post Office. These alternatives were not carried forward as viable project alternatives because, compared to the current preferred alternative, the other non viable alternatives would result in increased impacts to private property, increased soil disturbance and vegetation removal, increased impacts to surface waters including wetlands and riparian areas, and increased costs for construction and right-of-way acquisition."

Thank you for your letter bringing your concerns to our attention. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the project, please contact the Environmental Coordinator, Ed Espinoza, at (530) 225-3302 or the Project Manager, Richard Mullen, at (707) 441-5877.

Sincerely,

Tom Balkow, Branch Chief R2 Office of Environmental Management



#### PROJECT COMMENT SHEET

#### ROUTE 36 CARLOTTA SHOULDER WIDENING PROJECT

#### PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING APRIL 25, 2006 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Name: Harry Dibble
Address: 100 Wilson Lane Carlotta
Comments:
I think you should continue to widen the highway
200 to 300 yards past (west of Wilson Lane to join into
the highway that has already been partially widen.
At the beginning of this project, it was looked at going
all the way to the Post Office.
7

Please deposit in Comment Box before the end of the Public Hearing or fold and mail to the address on the reverse of this comment sheet by <u>May 15, 2006</u>. Thank you for your comments!

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P.O. Box 496073 Redding, CA 96049-2019 PHONE (530) 225-3405 FAX (530) 225-3019 TTY (530) 225-2019



May 26, 2006

02-Environmental Management 01-HUM-36-PM 5.9/7.6 03 180 01 323300 Shoulder Widening

George Hurlburt and Ruth Hoke 6447 Highway 36 Carlotta, CA 95528

Subject: Response to Comment

Dear Mr. Hurlburt and Ms. Hoke:

Thank you for taking the time to provide input on the proposed shoulder widening improvement project on Route 36 from post mile 5.9 to 7.6. We appreciate your participation in the project development process. In response to your written comments we provide the following:

Comment: "There is a depression (swale) in the road where the drainage ditch and culvert go underneath the road at about where the *Hoke* and *Marney* properties meet (Mile Marker 6). If an additional or larger culvert could be put in and the road leveled, that would get rid of flooding problems that we sometimes have; where water collects and flows across the road (highway) creating dangerous driving conditions."

Response: "A drainage improvement as proposed in your letter is not within the approved scope of this project. This widening project is for operational improvements, and does not include drainage improvements."

Thank you for your letter bringing your concerns to our attention. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the project, please contact the Environmental Coordinator, Ed Espinoza, at (530) 225-3302 or the Project Manager, Richard Mullen, at (707) 441-5877.

Sincerely,

Tom Balkow, Branch Chief R2 Office of Environmental Management

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006

To the state of th	2000
Project: Shoulder widening on Highway 36 through Carlotta	
19 egige Heirlburt and Ruth Hoke	
6497 Huy 36 Carlotta CA 95	ZIP 508
Representing: (Name of organization or agency)	
I would like to make the following comments: (Comments must be postmarked by May 15, 200	5) ,·
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Information provided on this comment card is considered to be public information, and	d will be
released upon request under the terms of the California Public Records Act.	strule.
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENC

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P.O. Box 496073 Redding, CA 96049-2019 PHONE (530) 225-3405 FAX (530) 225-3019 TTY (530) 225-2019



May 26, 2006

02-Environmental Management 01-HUM-36-PM 5.9/7.6 03 180 01 323300 Shoulder Widening

James J. Robinson 6466 Highway 36 Carlotta, CA 95528

Subject: Response to Comment

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Thank you for taking the time to provide input on the proposed shoulder widening improvement project on Route 36 from post mile 5.9 to 7.6. We appreciate your participation in the project development process. In response to your written comments we provide the following:

Comment: "The widening project should continue to the west towards Bessles Dairy to connect up with the roadway that is already wider."

Response: "The proposed project is based on preliminary engineering data and a design process that includes analysis for environmental, traffic, hydrology, aesthetic and right of way impacts. Alternatives were developed to identify the best project to meet the purpose and need for the project while addressing the impacts of the project on the community. The preferred alternative was selected because it provided the best solution with the least amount of disruption to the community and surrounding environment and provided without over extending the established budget for building the project."

Thank you for your letter bringing your concerns to our attention. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the project, please contact the Environmental Coordinator, Ed Espinoza, at (530) 225-3302 or the Project Manager, Richard Mullen, at (707) 441-5877.

Sincerely,

Tom Balkow, Branch Chief R2 Office of Environmental Management

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE \_\_\_\_ TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006

Project: Shoulder widening on Highway 36 through Carlotta
Tames J. KebiNSONI
ADDRESS: (home) CITY STATE ZIP  646 May 36 CARLOTTE; Cal. 95528
Representing: (Name of organization or agency)
I would like to make the following comments: (Comments must be postmarked by May 15, 2006)  THE Widescia PRESECT SHULD
THE Widening PRESECT SHULLD CONTINUE TO THE WEST TOWERDS BESSES Dainy Teconect up with THE RECIONAL THAT IS CHREADY WIDER
THAT IS CALREADY WIDER
NOTICE:
Information provided on this comment card is considered to be public information, and will be released upon request under the terms of the California Public Records Act.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P.O. Box 496073 Redding, CA 96049-2019 PHONE (530) 225-3405 FAX (530) 225-3019 TTY (530) 225-2019



May 26, 2006

02-Environmental Management 01-HUM-36-PM 5.9/7.6 03 180 01 323300 Shoulder Widening

Jan Mattson P.O. Box 289 Carlotta, CA 95528

Subject: Response to Comment

Dear Ms. Mattson:

Thank you for taking the time to provide input on the proposed shoulder widening improvement project on Route 36 from post mile 5.9 to 7.6. We appreciate your participation in the project development process. In response to your written comments we provide the following:

Comment: "Why are you extending the widening project east past the fire hall? If you stop at the fire hall it will give people a place to park, to extend beyond that point makes no sense and is a waste of money."

Response: "Various project alternatives were considered that extended the project distance past the current project limits. For now, this portion of the project limits allows for the placement of *Gateway* features (i.e., welcoming sign) as traffic enters Carlotta. In the next phase of the project (PS&E), we will look into the overall limits of the project and construct or widen only what is necessary."

Thank you for your letter bringing your concerns to our attention. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the project, please contact the Environmental Coordinator, Ed Espinoza, at (530) 225-3302 or the Project Manager, Richard Mullen, at (707) 441-5877.

Sincerely,

Tom Balkow, Branch Chief R2 Office of Environmental Management

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 20/06
Project: Shoulder widening on Highway 36 through Carlotta
Jan Wattson, Corbett Ranch
P.D. 289 Carlotta PA 95528
Representing: (Name of organization or agency)
I would like to make the following comments: (Comments must be postmarked by May 15, 2006)
Why are you extending the widening project
east to socit the foreHail
If you stop at the live Hall it will BILL
people a place to park
to extend hound that point males
no sence, and Is a waste of money.
NOTICE:
Information provided on this comment card is considered to be public information, and will be released upon request under the terms of the California Public Records Act.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P.O. Box 496073 Redding, CA 96049-2019 PHONE (530) 225-3405 FAX (530) 225-3019 TTY (530) 225-2019



May 26, 2006

02-Environmental Management 01-HUM-36-PM 5.9/7.6 03 180 01 323300 Shoulder Widening

Jim Meskill P.O. Box 418 Carlotta, CA 95528

Subject: Response to Comment

Dear Mr. Meskill:

Thank you for taking the time to provide input on the proposed shoulder widening improvement project on Route 36 from post mile 5.9 to 7.6. We appreciate your participation in the project development process. In response to your written comments we provide the following:

Comment: "My major concerns are the drainage and whether the road run-off mixed with that drainage will have a negative effect on my well. If not right away, then a few years down the road."

Response: "Groundwater levels and infiltration rates will not be affected by this project. Your well is not within a proposed fill area for this project, therefore it will not be affected."

Thank you for your letter bringing your concerns to our attention. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the project, please contact the Environmental Coordinator, Ed Espinoza, at (530) 225-3302 or the Project Manager, Richard Mullen, at (707) 441-5877.

Sincerely,

Tom Balkow, Branch Chief R2 Office of Environmental Management

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006

Project: Shoulder widening on Highway 36 through Carlotta
NAME: - Meskill
ADDRESS: (home) CITY STATE ZIP COPLOTTO CO 95528
Representing: (Name of organization or agency)
I would like to make the following comments: (Comments must be postmarked by May 15, 2006)
My major concerns are The drainage
and whether the road run off mixed
with that drainage will have a regotive
effect on my well. It not right away
NOTICE: a free years down the road-
,
Information provided on this comment card is considered to be public information, and will be
released upon request under the terms of the California Public Records Act.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governo

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

P.O. Box 496073 Redding, CA 96049-2019 PHONE (530) 225-3405 FAX (530) 225-3019 TTY (530) 225-2019



May 26, 2006

02-Environmental Management 01-HUM-36-PM 5.9/7.6 03 180 01 323300 Shoulder Widening

Russ Sampson 7088 Highway 36 Carlotta, CA 95528

Subject: Response to Comment

Dear Mr. Sampson:

Thank you for taking the time to provide input on the proposed shoulder widening improvement project on Route 36 from post mile 5.9 to 7.6. We appreciate your participation in the project development process. In response to your written comments we provide the following:

Comment: "Please complete project, as Highway 36 in Carlotta is not safe. Many people have died in wrecks do to a very narrow road. Also, you are at risk if you ride a bike or walk along the road."

Response: "Thank you for your support. The California Department of Transportation is conducting this process with the full intention of constructing this project"

Thank you for your letter bringing your concerns to our attention. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any aspect of the project, please contact the Environmental Coordinator, Ed Espinoza, at (530) 225-3302 or the Project Manager, Richard Mullen, at (707) 441-5877.

Sincerely,

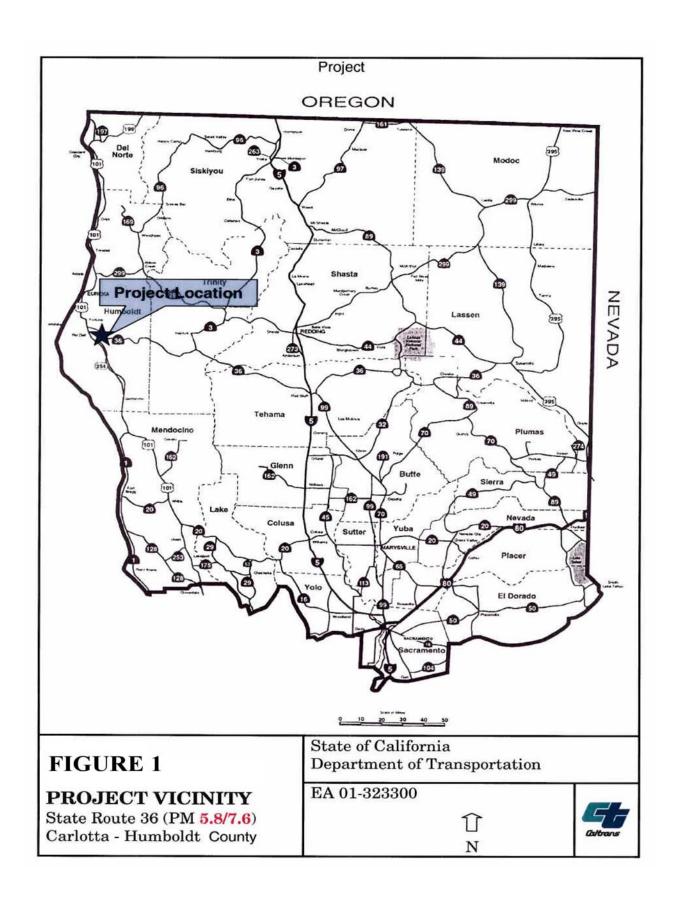
Tom Balkow, Branch Chief R2 Office of Environmental Management

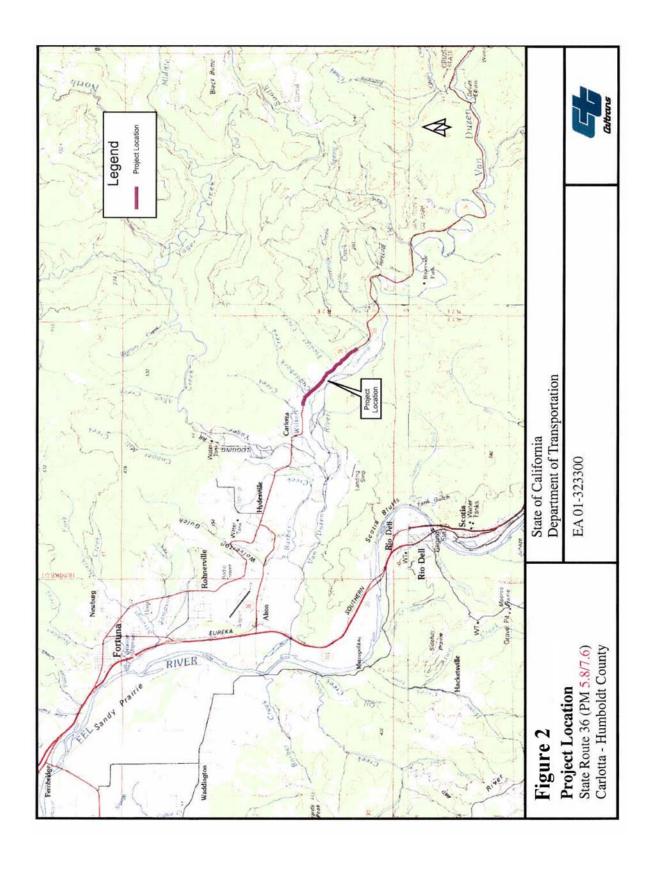
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006

Project: Shoulder widening on Highway 36 through Carlotta
NAME: 7 1 (455 SAMD: 100)
ADDRESS: (home) / CITY STATE ZIP
Representing: (Name of organization or agency)
I would like to make the following comments: (Comments must be postmarked by May 15, 2006)
Please complete project up Hay 36 mi
Carlofte is not sife Many people have
and in wachs to to a say manow woon
Tike or wick dong the war.
NOTICE:
Information provided on this comment card is considered to be public information, and will be released upon request under the terms of the California Public Records Act.

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## TARCH S

## **United States Department of the Interior**

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Pacific West Region 1111 Jackson Street Oakland, CA 94607

May 17, 2005

Mr. Ed Espinoza Department of Transportation North Region Mail stop 30, 1657 Riverside Drive Redding, CA 96049-6073

Subject: Carlotta shoulder widening

Dear Mr. Espinoza:

This letter is in response to my March 30<sup>th</sup> site visit of the shoulder widening project along Route 36 near Carlotta, CA. This project is adjacent to the Van Duzen River which is federally designated and required a Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Section 7 determination.

Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act prohibits federal agencies from "assist[ing] by loan grant, license, or otherwise in the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such river was established."

The National Park Service considers water resources projects to include projects involving construction in the bed or on the banks of the river. The proposed construction does not involve construction in the bed or on the banks (below the ordinary high water line) of the river and is therefore not considered to be a water resources project, and is not subject to review under Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

While this project is not subject to a determination under Section 7, we are concerned with any indirect affects due to slope disturbance and construction above the banks of the river. If at any point the project scope should change you are required to notify the National Park Service.

Based on the information provided, we have determined that the proposed project will not have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which the river was designated.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at (510) 817-1451.

Sincerely,

Stephen Bowes

CA Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinator

National Park Service

1111 Jackson Street, suite 700

Oakland, CA 94607

Figure 3 - Letter of Consensus from United States Department of the Interior

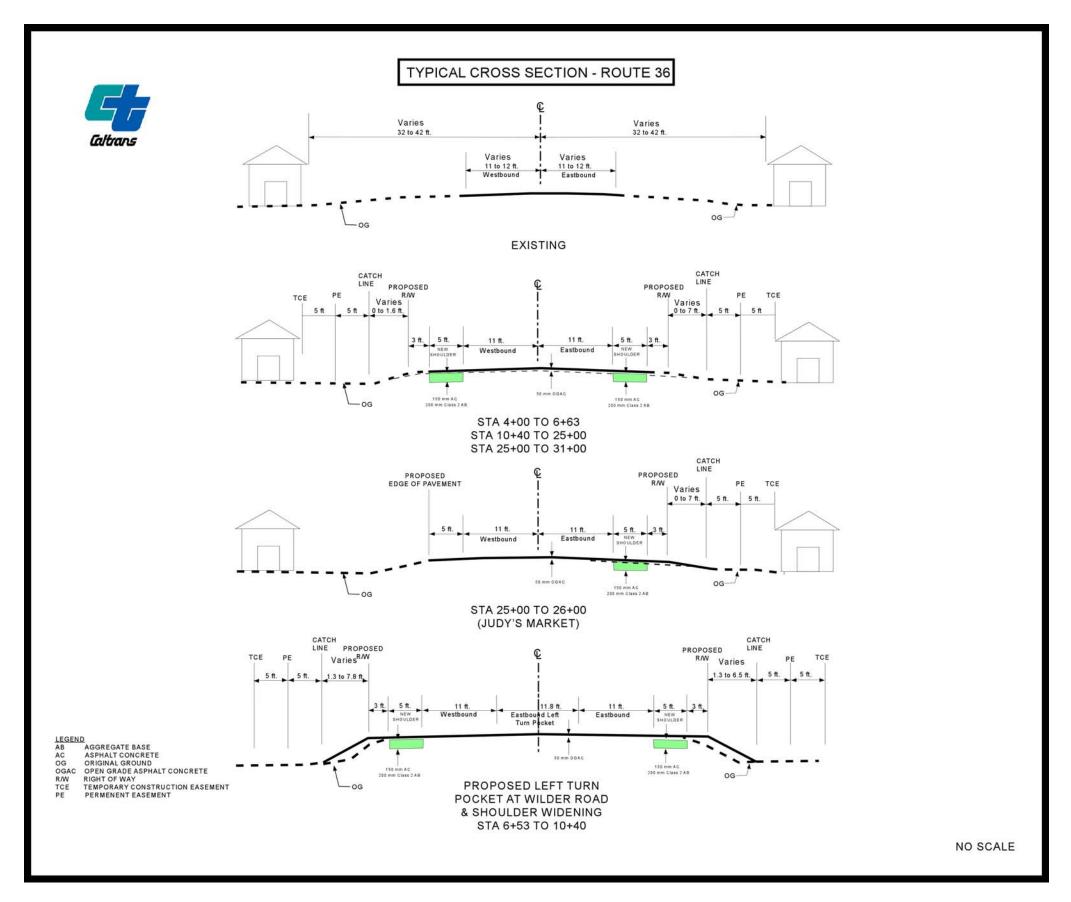
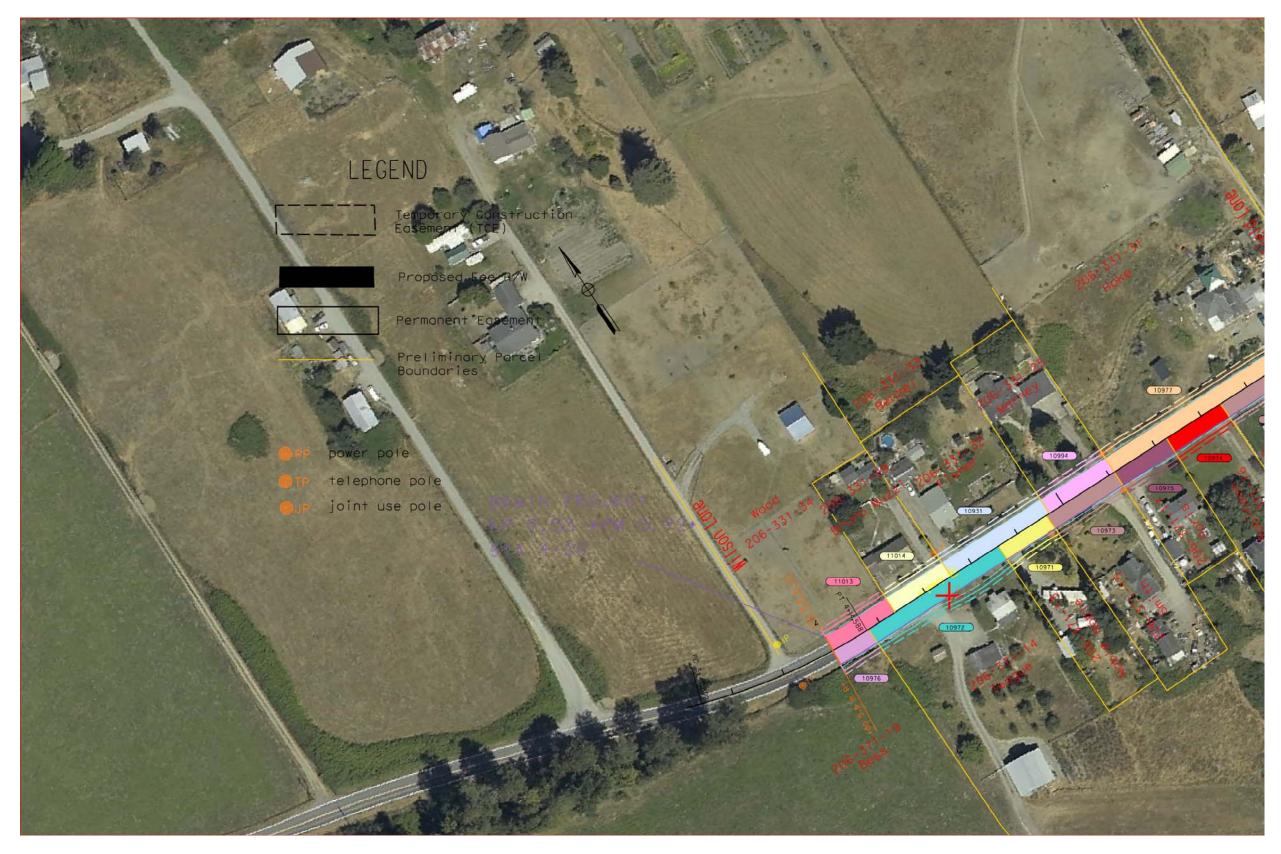
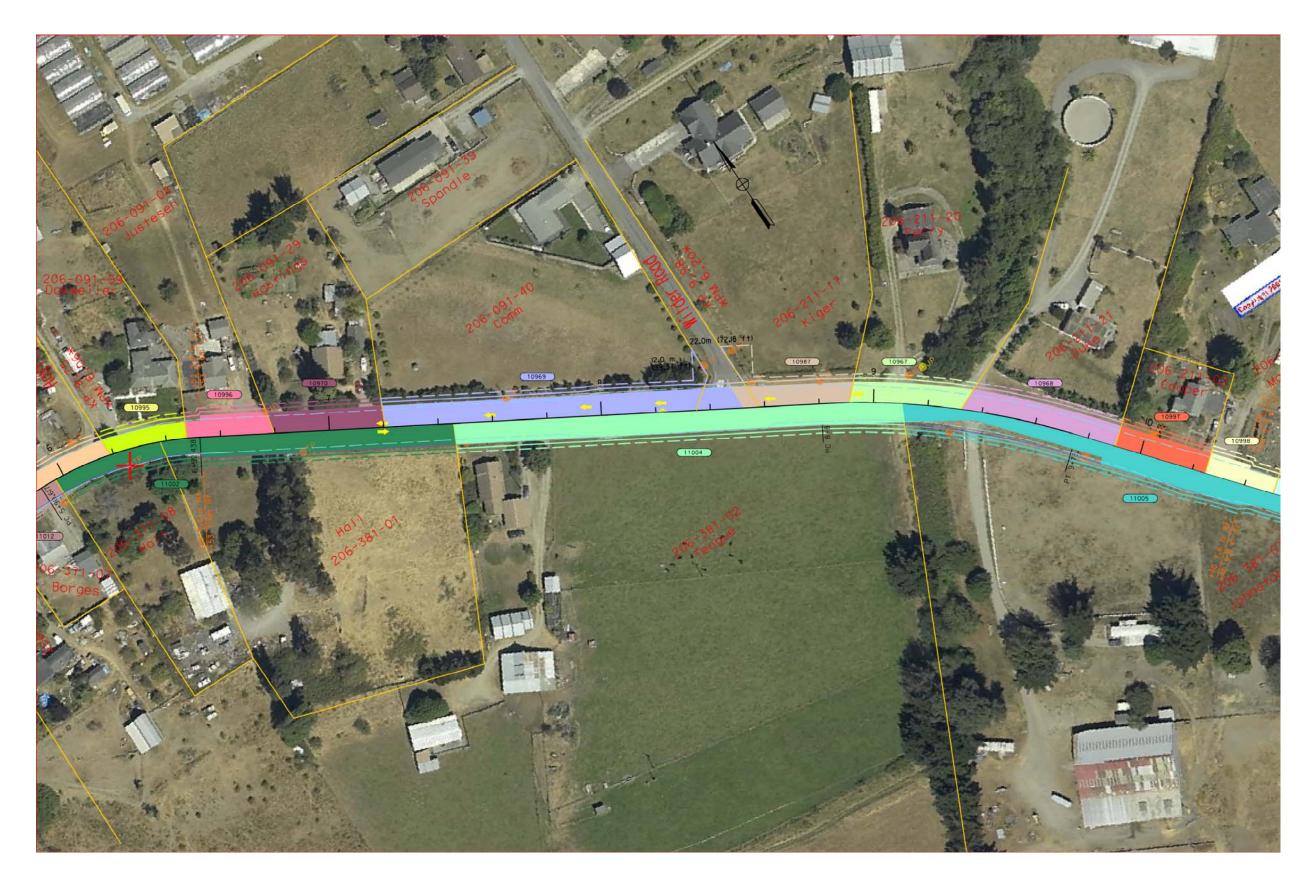


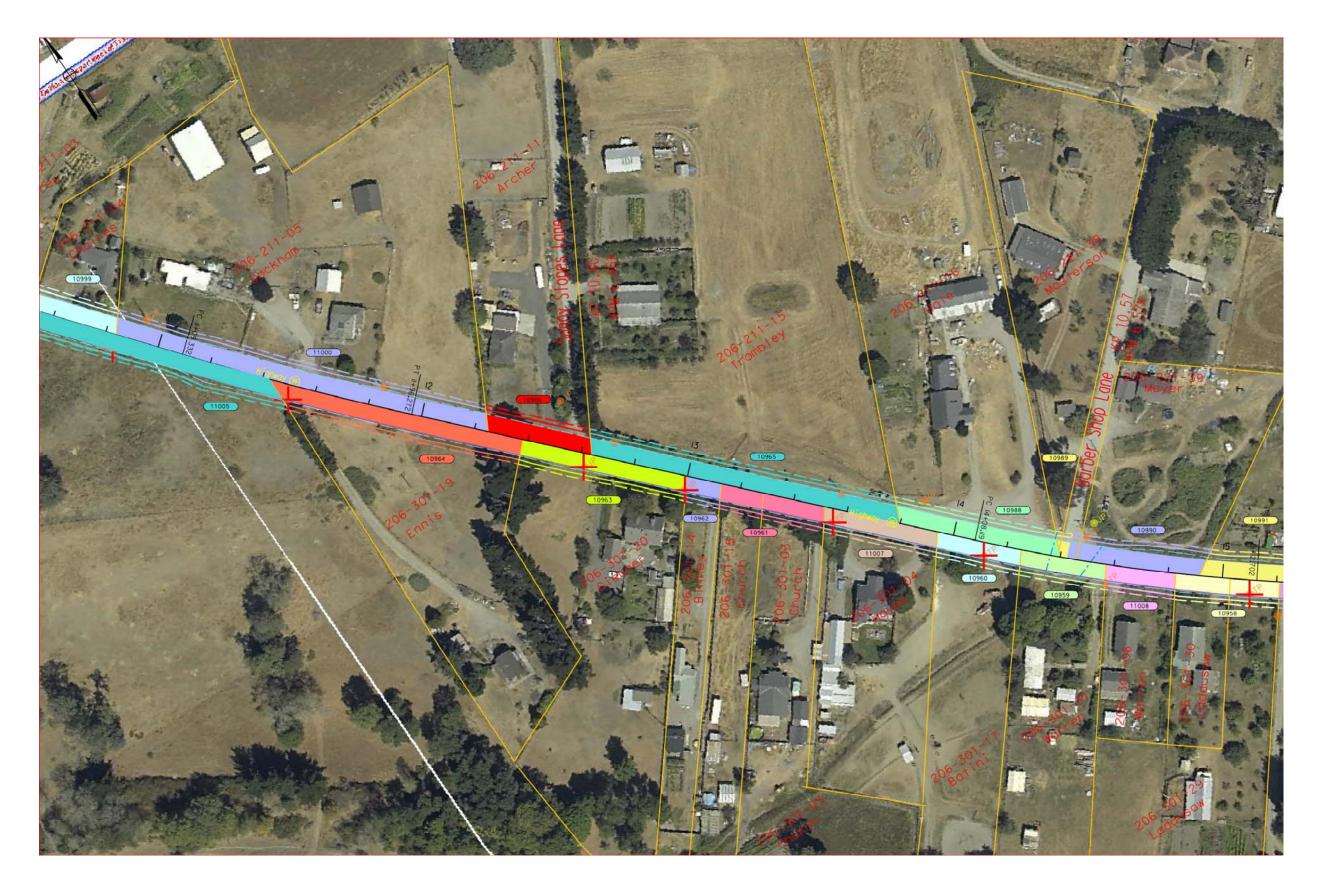
Figure 4 – Typical Cross Sections



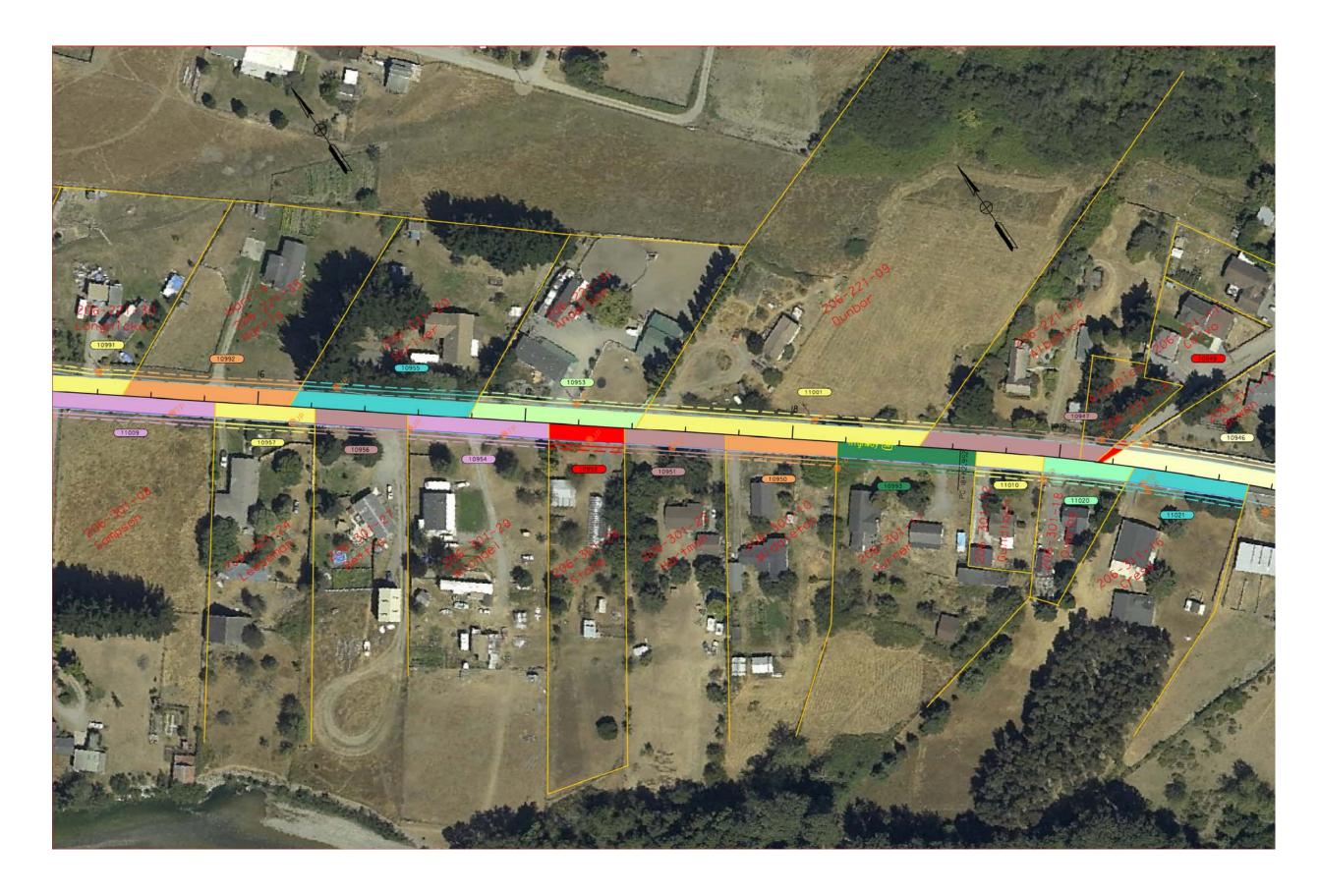
LAYOUT - 1



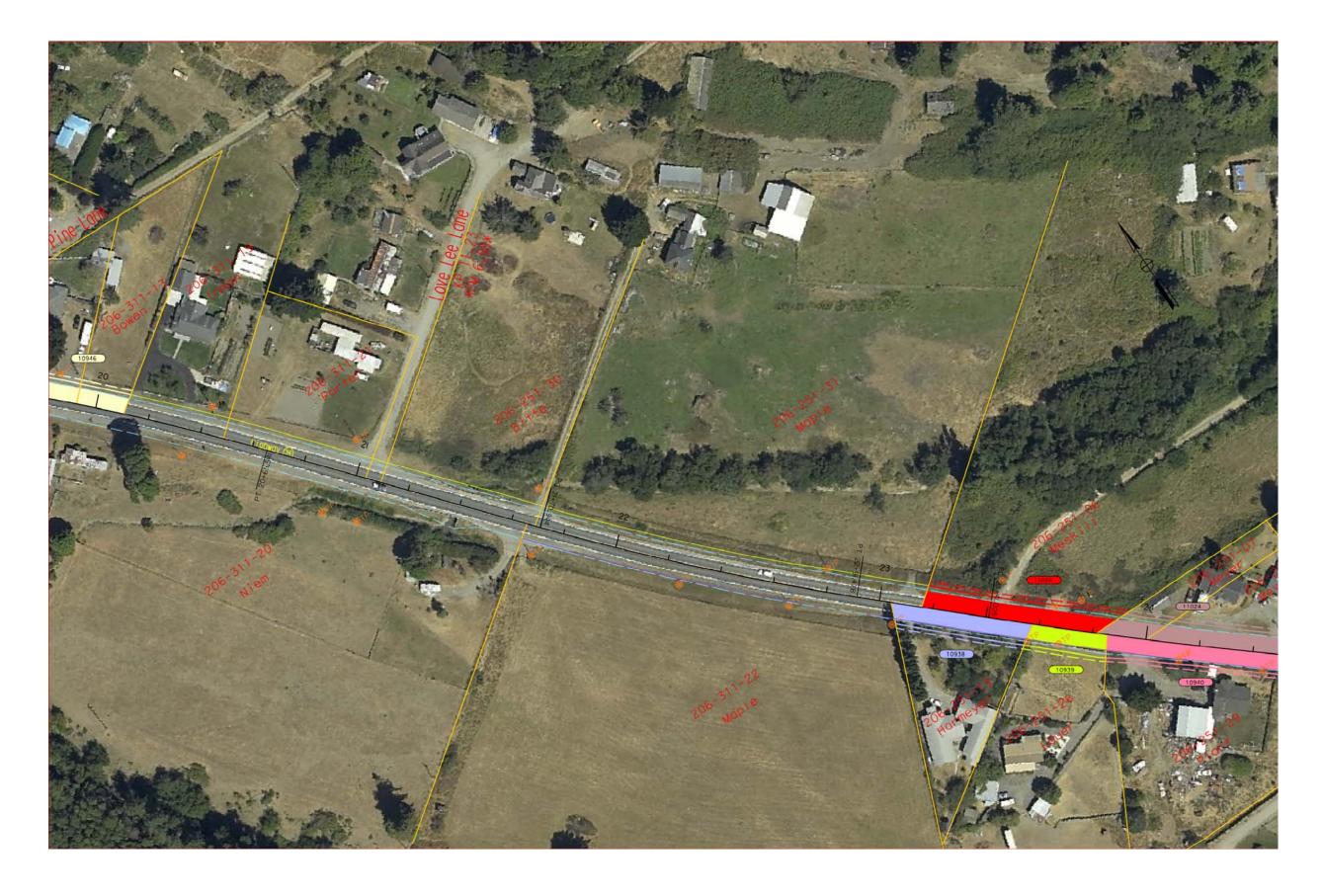
LAYOUT - 2



LAYOUT - 3



LAYOUT - 4



LAYOUT – 5



LAYOUT – 6



LAYOUT – 7